External Assistance for Andhra Pradesh Power Projects

3494. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some proposals to seek external financial assistance to complete all the approved pending power projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) Approval has recently been accorded to the proposals of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) to take up implementation of a gas-based 3 x 33 MW Combined Cycle power station at Narsapur-Razole and a 2 x 210 MW thermal power station at Rayalaseema (Muddanur). The schemes have been included in the State's Seventh Plan. The question of obtaining external assistance for these projects could be examined keeping in view, inter alia, the availability of resources in the State Plan.

It would be possible to determine the commissioning scheduled of the projects after the orders for main plant equipment have been placed by the State Electriciy Board.

Prices of Ampicillin

3495. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain essential drugs such as Ampicillin, Tetracycline, Co-trimoxozole, Amoxycillin which were exempted from excise duty before the Budget will now attract excise duty @ 10.5 per cent to 15.75 per cent depending on single ingredient or combination;

(b) how will such a recommendation of his Ministry help the consumer; and

(c) what will be the approximate increase in prices of these essential medicines and other medicines on which levy of excise duty has been proposed in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) My Ministry has already initiated action after examining the Budget proposals.

Allotment of Additional Quota of Kerosene to A.P.

3496. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene allotted to Andhra Pradesh so far during the current year which is to be supplied through the public distribution system;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for the allotment of additional quota; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet their demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) A statement showing the quantity of kerosene allocated to Andhra Pradesh to meet the requirements of various consumers in the State during the current year (January to June 1988) is attached. (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir.